SFChronicle

An Icy Reception

At the Desert Ball in Washington last week, President Nixon, shaking hands in a reception line, unexpectedly reached over and patted the wife of Ambassador Telephore Yaguibou of Upper Volta on the chest three times.

Questioned later, Mrs. Yaguibou, who was wearing a gray tie-dye dress and a quarter-sized topaz pendant, said, "He patted me and said, 'I like that.' I don't know what he was referring to. He must have meant my topaz or my dress."

Judging by the reception President Nixon received at the Desert Ball (which benefited drought-stricken African nations) his Operation Candor has turned into Operation Awkward.

Nixon, who accompanied Pat to the ball unexpectedly, received about the iciest reception accorded him since his presidency began. The President looked ashen.

When he mounted the stage to make his remarks and waited for a thunder clap of applause, it never came.

Nixon slipped out the side exit and, without ever saying good night to Pat, left her to sit all evening between Dr. James Cheek, president of Howard University, and David Parker, director of the Agency for International Development.

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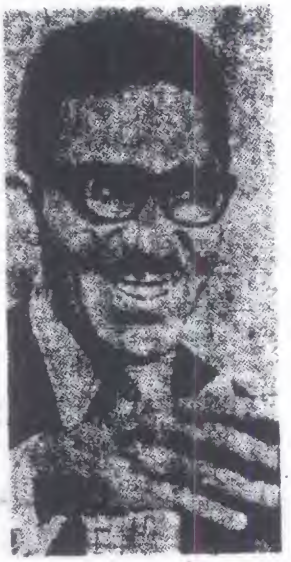

JAMES CHEEK
Next to Pat

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